
Status & Remarks

The application presently contains the following claims:

<i>Independent Claim #</i>	<i>Dependent Claim #s</i>
1	2-35
37	38-58

Claims 59-68 are withdrawn in this amendment, the claims being directed to a non-elected invention and no claims are amended.

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121.

- (I) Claims 1-58, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 285, subclass 354;
and
- (II) Claims 59-68, drawn to a method, classified in class 29, subclass 890.14.

The applicant's attorney will elect, without traverse, claims 1-58, which relate to the article of manufacture, and withdraws via amendment using the revised format provided with the office action, claims 59-68.

Request for Reconsideration


Applicant believes that all independent claims clearly define over the prior art and that the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Additionally, the remaining dependent claims, by the limitations contained in the base independent claims, are felt to be patentable over the prior art by virtue of their dependency from independent claims which distinguish over the prior art of record. All pending claims are thought to be allowable and reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that no new additional searching will be required by the examiner. A fee determination sheet is attached for this amendment response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required to effect the filing of this document to Account No. 50-0983.

It is respectfully submitted that all references identified by the examiner have been distinguished in a non-obvious way. If the examiner believes that a telephonic conversation would facilitate a resolution of any and/or all of the outstanding issues pending in this application, then such a call is cordially invited at the convenience of the examiner.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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